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# Introduction: Turning a Transnational Corner

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NINA MORGAN

We are turning a corner—with the uplifting results of the US presidential election, the approval and distribution of Covid-19 vaccines, and, for *JTAS*, a significant and promising new chapter with the announcement of a second editorial home for the *Journal*: We are thrilled to officially recognize the Obama Institute for Transnational American Studies at Johannes Gutenberg University, Mainz, Germany as a cosponsor of *JTAS*.

This new and important transnational collaboration opens an avenue to multiple and diverse connections among institutions, faculty, students, and readers. We hope that this productive partnership will allow the American Studies Program at Stanford University in the US and the Obama Institute in Germany to foster outstanding scholarship in Transnational American Studies for many years to come. We are especially delighted to announce *JTAS*'s new Editor-in-Chief will be the Director or "Speaker" of the Obama Institute, Alfred Hornung, one of the leading Americanists in the world.

The Obama Institute of Transnational American Studies was founded as an interdisciplinary, research-focused institute tasked with a leadership role in defining global and twenty-first century trends in Transnational American Studies. With the permission of then President Barack Obama, and with the support of a foundational and long-standing academic commitment to American Studies at JGU Mainz reaching back to the teaching of American Literature in the early 1950s, the Obama Institute in Mainz opened officially in 2017. Today, the Obama Institute is flourishing, having grown into a multicontinental network of research and teaching faculty as well as international Obama Fellows who collaborate on interdisciplinary projects, conferences, and the teaching of undergraduate and graduate students in American Studies. (See: <http://www.obama-institute.com>.)

Like the Kennedy Institute in Berlin, the Obama Institute for Transnational American Studies continues a German tradition of scholarly internationalism and global outreach, yet its focus is on cross-cultural, transdisciplinary collaborations, engaging fields that include law, politics, and medicine. *JTAS* is grateful for the support

of Mainz University President Georg Krausch and the Ministry of Education, Science, and Culture of the State of Rhineland-Palatinate and looks forward to working closely with the entire Executive Board of the Obama Institute: Mita Banerjee, Jutta Ernst, Alfred Hornung, Axel Schäfer, and Oliver Scheiding.